

From: [Little, Bill](#)
To: [Moore, Gary](#)
Cc: [Drammeh, Joan](#)
Subject: update
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:53:14 AM

Gary,

Thank you, I have been extremely busy also and hopefully will have some sort of hand out for the meeting. I appreciate your updates and looking forward to the meeting and visiting the site. I talked with Terry and have a better understanding as to what the future may hold for the site but I do not intend to say anything about that in the handout. Do you have a target date for finishing the removal?

Thank you very much for all the info. Are you using the same posters? I need to make sure I have easels.

See you Monday,

Bill

Bill Little

Region 6 USEPA

Community Involvement

Coordinator/SEE

214.665.8131

little.bill@epa.gov

From: Moore, Gary

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 3:34 PM

To: Little, Bill

Subject: Re: EJ: CES article in Houston Chronicle

Bill:

We don't have a running total that we are keeping. We will have to look at the manifests or do an estimate. I am pretty busy this week. I will come in early on Monday so hopefully I will be there for a site walk with you guys on Monday.

Thanks

Gary Moore

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 6

214-789-1627 cell

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From: Little, Bill

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:17 AM

To: Moore, Gary

Cc: Drammeh, Joan

Subject: FW: EJ: CES article in Houston Chronicle

Gary,

The latest article on CES.

I understand that when you are finished at the site we will be giving it to the State under the

Voluntary Clean-Up Program and the PRP will be doing the cleanup of residual contamination. In your slide presentation for Mondays meeting do you have any quantities of contaminants removed? I am trying to finish an information sheet(fact sheet) to hand out at the meeting. I feel from reading the article we are in for a lot of flak. Any quantities of removed waste would be a feather in our hats.

I realize the removal of the tanks and disposal of most of the things is a great accomplishment. You have done an outstanding job and stayed well with-in budget. I think quantities will make a huge impact with our audience.

Can you please number your slides so we can tell them if they have questions about a specific slide to note the number and we can return at the end of your presentation and would ask that they hold questions until you have finished.

Do you have anything you need from us or the Health Department? Will you have time to take us around the site in the afternoon before the meeting?

Thank You and look forward to seeing you.

Bill

Bill Little

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From: Coats, Janetta

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 10:46 AM

To: Little, Bill

Subject: FW: EJ: CES article in Houston Chronicle

Good morning,

In the event previously received, please delete.

Thanks,

News Headline: Abandoned plant's neighbors want city to clean up pollution | ☐

News Date: 02/16/2015

Outlet Full Name: Houston Chronicle

News Text: Feb. 17--Only a chain-link fence and some leafless trees separate Judy Jones' house in south Houston from an abandoned industrial waste facility. They're hardly enough to stop the noxious fumes that waft from the tanks, drums and sludge that remain more than four years after CES Environmental Services closed.

Frustrated by the pace of the cleanup, Jones and her neighbors are urging the city to purchase the Griggs Road property and to pay for the removal of all existing structures. City officials then can decide an appropriate future use for the site, possibly as a park or a housing development, the residents say.

"We're in a danger zone," Jones said Monday. "This needs to be cleaned up."

The push comes six months after the federal Environmental Protection Agency began to clean up the property, an effort that involves removing several hazardous chemicals such as cancer-causing benzene and methyl ethyl ketone, a nose- and throat-irritating solvent.

The agency has set aside \$2.5 million in federal and state money for the effort. But neighbors and environmental groups said the cleanup likely will exceed the budget because crews are encountering contaminants they didn't expect to see at the site.

"This is a public health problem in the middle of the city of Houston, and \$2.5 million isn't enough to fix it," said Tiffany Hogue, policy director for the Texas Organizing Project, which has assisted the site's neighbors. "Now the city has to act."

Hogue and others said city officials should take greater responsibility for the chemical-laden mess because the site is near houses, three schools and a church -- the result of Houston's lack of zoning.

For six years before closing the plant in 2010, CES cleaned truck trailers, recycled oil and packaged waste for transport and disposal. The company's customers included oil refineries and chemical plants along the Houston Ship Channel.

CES shuttered the plant and filed for bankruptcy in 2010 after the city cut off its sewer service amid complaints over odors, explosions and on-the-job deaths. The company's president later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year in federal prison for willfully violating worker safety rules and faking documents describing chemical shipments.

Councilman Dwight Boykins, whose district includes the neighborhood and the polluted site, said the city should do more to get it cleaned up. But he stopped short of endorsing city purchase of the property, which is valued at nearly \$2 million.

Instead, Boykins said city officials should apply more pressure on the EPA.

"There are residents in the neighborhood who are suffering, suffering daily," he said. "We need to stop procrastinating."

Councilman Michael Kubosh agreed.

"If this was a fire, the last truck wouldn't leave until the fire was out," he said. "But because this is an odor, a stench, we leave them in the stink."

A city purchase of the site would be difficult at a time when officials project deficits in each of the next four years, driven largely by a spike in the cost of servicing debt, rising payments into three pension funds and a voter-imposed cap on the revenues from property taxes. A projected \$63 million gap must be closed before the new fiscal year begins on July 1. That's significantly more than the annual budget for all city libraries.

But the abandoned plant's neighbors can't wait any longer, said Brian Butler, a spokesman for Air Alliance Houston, an environmental group.

"The buck continues to be passed from the city to the state to the EPA," he said. "We need all of them to come together and get to work. It will take more than what's been done."

Chronicle reporter Mike Morris contributed to this report.

